

NORFOLK.

A DEPUTY SHERIFF KILLS HIS GANE.

The Hewitts Engagement—A Minister of the Gospel—Hon. John Good—Fylin.

(Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.)

JULY 13, 1886.

The deputy sheriff went to Sheriff's Hill, Norfolk county, this morning, to arrest the party who stabbed Bishop yesterday, but failed, the party engaged in the row having escaped.

Our local military are very much pleased with the contemplated encampment of the Richmond Howiters at Ocean View, and a detachment from each company will meet the visitors on their arrival to-morrow and escort them to the depot.

Rev. O. S. Harten, D. D., rector of Christ church, left for New York this morning, and will sail on Thursday for a three-months' visit to Germany. Yesterday the ladies of the congregation presented the rector with a purse of \$500 to help defray the expenses of his trip.

The Newbury's Association of Norfolk now numbers over forty members. Rev. M. J. Moorman, of Dinwiddie circuit, who has been stopping in Portsmouth since Thursday, left to-day for his home in Cambridge, Md.

Solicitor-General Good is at Virginia Beach, and is daily called on by large numbers of sympathizing friends. Ex-Mayor John S. Tucker, who is now in the law in Washington, D. C., is stopping at the Beach.

The Portsmouth Pythian Division, in Toronto, Can., are quartered at the Power Hotel, and telegraph that they were tendered a superb reception by Mr. Luther White, while riding a bicycle yesterday, fell from the machine and broke his right leg.

The telegraph communication established yesterday between this city and Nag's Head is over the Government Coast Line. The Government line has always taken all the commercial business offered.

MATTHEWS COUNTY.

Had News—Capture of Oyster Vessels—Crops.

(Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.)

WINTERVILLE, July 12, 1886.

A telegram from near Brazoria, Tex., brings the sad intelligence of the death, by assassination, of Mr. Randolph Smith, a member of one of our most worthy families. A later telegram states that the murderer was a negro, and that he had been strung up by the executioner.

Smith left home and friends when quite young to carve out his fortunes in the "Lone Star" State. He was a prosperous merchant, and doubtless money was the object of the foul deed.

Mr. Tommie Smith, Jr., a brother of Randolph's, was foully murdered about eight years ago at the same place. Amiable as a woman, of gentle and retiring manners, no one suspected he had an enemy. Returning from the post office one morning, he was shot dead from a window. There was no motive for this deed save an insane and groundless jealousy. The assassin died a natural death, though, in justice to the jury, I may say he was convicted of the murder, but the eloquence and skill of counsel saved his neck until Nature finally relieved the jailer of his presence.

I am indebted to Captain Seth Foster, of the police steamer Chesapeake, for a recent dispatch. He states that on Thursday the 8th instant he steamed up James river in search of oyster pirates reported at work there. Carpenters at the island were engaged in fitting up dormitory apartments on the deck of the steamer. These he took along with him that the work might not be delayed. The fruits of this expedition were the sloops Mayflower and Bruce, without license, and the sloop Jojo and the V. C. Conklin. The two latter vessels were taken along for violation of the 13th section of the oyster law, which forbids the catching in the close season of more than five bushels of oysters per day.

Captain Foster did not state any particulars of the capture nor the disposition he made of the vessels. Doubtless his mind was dwelling upon the time-honored and pithy speech of Julius Caesar—"Veni, vidi, vici."

Foster states that there are much contention on the island as to the location where the 13th section is in force; that they are bitterly opposed to the law permitting oystering in the close season, alleging that they are cleaning up the beds as they go, thereby destroying the recuperative power of the rocks. He further states that the tongue of Grey's island are engaged in plotting to the law, for the alleged reason that there will be no oysters to catch in the fall and winter months.

It appears to me that it would be eminently better for all concerned to stay the hand of all during the summer season. This is the incubating season of the oyster and of course the most critical time in the history of its history. Millions of spawn and tender nurseries are destroyed by summer fishing, and it is an enormous loss to the oysterman as well as to the State. Without thoughtful and prudent legislation on this subject the Virginia oyster-beds, like her once-magnificent forests, will exist only in the imagination.

We are enjoying fine weather at present. The cat and wheat crops are generally harvested, and the yield is without precedent.

There is some little apprehension that the wheat may be damaged by sprouting.

The farmers have been greatly delayed in "laying by" the corn crop, but the present week will, if good weather continues, enable all to give the last stroke. The corn crop is looking magnificent and promises an abundant yield.

The weather is intensely hot. The thermometer registered 92° in the shade at 3 P. M. yesterday. A. J. M.

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY.

Harrisonburg Municipal Election—The Crop Prospect.

(Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.)

HARRISONBURG, VA., July 12, '86.

The hot wave of last week has given place to day to cool, cloudy weather, and everything indicates rain. It is to be hoped that either may continue propitious until all the wheat has been stacked or housed and the hay crop made.

Our municipal election occurs on Thursday of next week, 22d. The candidates for mayor are Hon. P. Bryan (present incumbent), Democrat, and D. Sheffy Lewis (son of ex-Senator Lewis and editor of the Spirit of the Valley newspaper), Republican. The Republicans claim that they are making no party fight, but we all know what will be said should they succeed. The fight will be close, but the Democrats expect to win.

Captain B. G. Patterson, of this place, has been elected president of the Valley Turnpike Company to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Samuel Blackwell, Esq. A better man could not have been chosen.

The machinery at the pump-house of

A PAPER RAILROAD TIE.

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(Tribune.)

"That is a railroad tie." It was of the regular size and polished as smoothly as a piece of Italian marble. The grain was so fine and the whole appearance was so artistic that it might easily have been taken for a chip from a pillar of a Grecian temple instead of such a practical thing as a railroad tie.

The speaker was a short, stout, well-favored man with a large head and eyes of a penetrating gaze. He was the inventor of a new and improved railroad tie, and he was in Fulton street there were many models of cars and railroad tracks scattered about. "This," said he, "is the result of years of labor, and I believe now that it is perfect. It is made of paper, which I believe is to enter to a large extent in all building operations at no distant day. The great enemy to the use of paper for many things is moisture, and in my invention, of course, a means had to be discovered to prevent dampness from having the slightest effect, as a railroad tie, being in the ground, is subjected constantly to it, and a rotten tie might cause the loss of many lives and much property. The process of manufacture is so secret to a certain extent, but the tie is absolutely fire and water-proof. There I will throw a piece of the prepared paper into the fire. You see it will not burn. I have submerged it for weeks and months in both hot and cold water, and the moisture has never been found inside the surface. Consequently it cannot rot. Though apparently as hard as iron, an ordinary spike can be driven into it without difficulty, and when the spike is in position the material is of such a nature that it cures around the iron and holds it so firmly that it can never be shaken loose. There is also a certain amount of spring to it, and when the tie is in position it operates as a sort of cushion and takes away a certain amount of jar from running cars. Under certain conditions, by slightly altering the combination of materials, the paper can be made so hard that it will turn the edge of the hardest tool without being more than scratched. The ordinary wooden tie will last about five years under the most favorable conditions, while this paper tie will stand any kind of weather for at least thirty years.

"The paper used is generally made of straw, though almost any kind of fibre will do as well. Straw is preferred because it can be easily obtained and the supply is unlimited. There are mills in the West where the straw is made into paper, and it is in this industry and was first started to utilize the waste straw in the vast West for fuel, instead of wood. This is a paying business, and fortunes are being made out of what only a few years ago was thrown away or burned up as useless.

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Yours truly, H. M. TURNER.

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